

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 145843

43

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 H-03 AGR-02 AID-01 NSC-06 SS-07 RSC-01

/031 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/NC/V:MCFORRESTER:JVH

7/25/73 EXT. 22747

APPROVED BY ARA/NC: MR. LITTLE

H, MR. WILSON

AGRICULTURE:MR. NOVOTNY INFO)

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R 251630Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: OREP, VE

SUBJECT: CODEL POAGE

REFS: (A) STATE 111320,(B) CARACAS 6084

DURING COURSE OF BRIEFING JULY 24 FOR HOUSE
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEMBERS SCHEDULED TO VISIT
VENEZUELA AUGUST 4, ARA/NC SPOKESMAN RELAYED ACUTE
INTEREST OF GOV CONTAINED IN REF B. IN PURCHASING
MINIMUM 200,000 METRIC TONS OF U.S. WHEAT.
SPOKESMAN ADDED IF CONGRESSMEN COULD ASSIST
GOV IN MEETING THIS REQUEST, CONSIDERABLE GOOD WILL
WOULD REDOUND TO USG. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN POAGE
SAID HE PERCEIVED NO PROBLEM IN OBTAINING WHEAT SINCE
IT WOULD BE A COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION, AND ASKED IF
GOV HAD CONTACTED WHEAT TRADERS. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
REPLIED HE ASSUMED SO, BUT HAD NO FIRM INFORMPTION.
WHILE ADMITTING WHEAT AVAILABILITY, CHAIRMAN POAGE
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PAGE 02 STATE 145843

THOUGHT THAT SHIPMENT MIGHT POSE A PROBLEM.

CONGRESSMAN DAVID BOWEN DEMOCRAT , MISS.) ASKED THAT IF
THE COMMITTEE WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN SECURING WHEAT,
WOULD SUCH ASSISTANCE BE USED BY OPPOSITION PARTIES
TO ALLEGE USG FAVORITISM FOR COPEI, AND THUS INJECT

US INTO CAMPAIGN? DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED
DOUBT THAT SUCH AN INTERPRETATION WOULD BE GIVEN
TO A COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION WITH VENEZUELA'S
TRADITIONAL WHEAT SUPPLIER DURING A PERIOD OF CRITICAL
FOOD SHORTAGES.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FULLY APPRECIATE VENEZUELA'S
REQUIREMENTS AND WILL ENDEAVOR TO LOCATE WHEAT
SUPPLIERSWHOM VENEZUELAN REPRESENTATIVES MAY
CONTACT. ROGERS

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